

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 30, as follows:

Hematocrit has been measured with various methods since the ~~early hood~~ beginnings of medical diagnosis. Continuous measurement is particularly useful during dialysis treatment. During the process of dialysis, liquids are extracted from the blood stream. As a result, hematocrit increases during the process. For the assurance of good quality in the dialysis treatment, the hematocrit value should be monitored, as this provides the care provider with essential information regarding the rate of extraction of fluids from the patient's bloodstream.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18, as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, a new method and a novel apparatus are presented to measure blood properties with a procedure comprising a new optical probe arrangement that overcomes the problem of the prior art, as for instance optical variations, such as optical density, refractions, etc. The invention may even take the shape of a clamp that with great ease can be applied on a transparent tubing such as transport tubing in dialysis. The new problem makes hematocrit values available with unsurpassed precision in the art, in spite of the fact that it measures ~~through~~ through transparent tubing that vary in thickness and shape.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26, as follows:

In the practical embodiment of the invention the blood is measured as it flows through a transparent tubing. A beam of light, for instance from a laser is ~~direct~~ directed perpendicular into the tube and two sensors opposed to each other and perpendicular to the light beam pick up light and the sensor signals are used for the evaluation. The light source and the sensors may lie in the same plane but the plane of the sensors may also be slightly offset in relation to the light beam, for instance along the tubing. One can also consider using several pairs of sensors

offset along the tubing and upstream as well as downstream in order to increase precision.

Also a third sensor may be added to each pair, this third sensor being placed close to the light source.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25, as follows:

It is not today clear why the invented measuring method and device are so superior in relation to the prior art, one theory could be the offset between sensors and light source. Only one light that has been dispersed from the volume of the blood in the path of the light and into the sense sector of the sensor and from this into the sensor will be registered. In other [[word]] words only light that has been dispersed at least twice will reach the sensor. By arranging source and sensor perpendicularly blood cells in a major part of the tube cross section will have the opportunity to contribute so that the signals from the sensors become a function of the hematocrite value.

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